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L E T T E R

FROM A

SHOP-KEEPER,

TO THE

FREE and INDEPENDENT ELECTORS
and CITIZENS

OF

D U B L I N.



D U B L I N:

Printed by JAMES ESDALL, on Cork-Hill, 1749.

after Aug 14
before Oct 12

L E T T E R

A M O N A

S H O P - K E E P E R

O F T H E

T A B L E O F I N D E X

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D U B L I N

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Printed by James Esdaile, on Cork Hill, 1749



LETTER, &c.

Dear and worthy Brethren and Fellow-Citizens,

AT a Time, when every rational Person's Consideration, is some how or other taken up by the present warm Contest that prevails in our City; while it is in every Assembly, the Topic of Conversation, and clamours in our Streets: while it daily occasions the Publication of Letters, Addresses, and other Papers, by Persons of different Persuasions and different Interests: This Application, my *Brethren*, will not surprise you.

SENSIBLE, I am, under what Disadvantages, it appears, before you, without the Improvement of Art, without the shining Ornaments of Education: But, then, my *Brethren*, your good Nature will cloath the naked Sentiment, and pardon the bad Expression, when the Intention is good:

I AM one of those that long heard the present Disputes, without entering into them. I viewed the raging Battle without Danger; but, now I have caught the glorious Spark of Emulation; I rush from my Security, and brave the greatest Dangers of the War. All my Faculties and Powers shall be engaged in the upright Cause: The Cause of *declining Liberty!* of *trampled Virtue!* And, though my Aid is but poor, yet I hope it is timely. Though I am not the first in the Field, yet will I be one of the foremost in Action. Though my Arm is not braced with the nervous Strength of a *Veteran*; though my Body is feeble, and ill-formed for Agility, yet shall my Heart make up the great Deficiency; and like the Atmosphere, undiscovered fill the void.

AND, oh! my *Brethren*, that I could persuade you to join me, in your several Capacities. That I could fire your Breasts with the generous Ardor. That I could awaken you from those visionary Regions you have inhabited, to dwell with Reality and Substance. Nay, if I could gain one Auxiliary to my Assistance; I should think this Alienation of my Time from Business, well spent; and all my most distant Hopes gloriously answered.

AND, whether Success attends my Endeavours or no, this I can assure you, is the Motive of my present troubling you. This is the Foundation of this my weakly Attempt.

ALL of you, my *Brethren*, are acquainted with the late arbitrary, violent, and unprecedented Proceedings of the *Sheriffs* and *Commons*, aided and countenanced by the *Board of Aldermen*. Their acquitting a known aproved Malefactor: And censuring one who has done Miracles for them. One from whom they have received the greatest Good;—the most valuable Obligations.——One whose Time has been long employed in their Service. Whose Constitution has been wasted; by his continual watching for their Safety.——For all our Good. And is this the Reward for his Services? This, the Return for all his Pains taking?——Oh! *Virtue!* Oh! *Gratitude!*

THE *Soldier* receives Pay for his Toil in the Field. In Time of Peace, secured from Danger, you pay him. The lowest Hireling receives the Price of his Labour. The Drudgery of the Ox is rewarded. And shall this Man receive Evil for Good?

WOULD it not be enough to let his Services pass unnoticed; but they should condemn him for them: And that for whom? Why for their faithful Servant in Iniquity. A *Citizen* I will not call him; for that Title he hath long since forfeited. One branded by a collective Body of your *Fellow Citizens*. And by them ignominiously outed from the Station he held among them.

WHAT Reason, what Excuse can they give for this, their unjust Conduct? It must be sure; their being lost to all Sense of Freedom. A Dread of Power, and servile Complaisancy. A Tide of Jeasy hath drowned all generous Principles. The baneful Juice of Envy hath corroded all Love of Justice, all Tyes of Humanity.

THE *Jews*, that hardened stiff-necked People, murmured at their great Law-giver, their kind Conductor. But these hardened Men of our Time, have gone much further. They have censured their kind Benefactor, in the most inveterate Manner, for a trivial Matter; which I shall not here repeat,

repeat, as it is publicly known, and already taken Notice of by abler Hands.

BUT what is this Mote they pretend to have found? This favourite Crime they charge him with? Allowing it just. Allowing it all the Weight their scandalous Malice can invent. Yet doth not the Services he hath done them, done you, done me, done the lowest Individual, and Publick in general, more than over-balance it? When a Man's Virtues and good Works is sufficient to veil his Frailties; who will remove the Covering? Is it Humanity to do it?

A NAKED Statue may shock a delicate Modesty. But, if a pleasing Drapery adorn it, we forget the Indecency; our Delicacy sits easy. Nor are we longer displeased with the one; but reconciled to both. The Clouds that hang over us, hiding the beneficent Orb, and throwing a Gloominess around, are not remembered, when they melt in gentle Showers, and let in the genial Ray. The most noble and virtuous Characters are not without Blemish. Nor can we ever hope to meet with Perfection here. And, as a great Personage observes, that Writer, who draws a perfect Character, draws a faultless Monster, which the World ne'er saw. — Gold is not made current, but by Alloy.

SHALL I then say, that Mr. LUCAS is without his Errors, or his Frailties? No. But, my Brethren, you will excuse me, if in fullfilling the Tyes of Brotherhood and Humanity, I appologize for them. I allow he is too warm, and perhaps, his Accusations are impregnated with too bitter Invectives. But what is this owing to? Is it not to his being himself abused in the grossest Manner? To his being robbed with each of us, of many Rights and Priviledges which we were born to. To a magnanimous and undaunted Spirit. To a noble and a *Christian Zeal*. A Zeal! which that great Apostle and Convert, St. Paul, so distinguishably knew, and which so eminently assisted him in his Justification before the greatest Men of that Time. He spoke the Words of Truth, with such Earnestness and Zeal, that his Judges became his Advocates. And, oh! that those of this Land, were as susceptible of Truth and Conviction.

AFTER this first Step, they have added Guilt to Guilt; Malice to their malicious Proceedings. Not contented with their first Defamation; not contented with their vain Efforts to deprive him of his good Name; but they strive to build their own Fame on the Ruin of his: But the Foundation is in the Sand, the next returning Tide washes it away.

They

They conjure up a Spright to their Assistance, but by the Morning-Watch it vanishes. They foster the Adoption of a pretended *Scribe*, one of their own iniquitous Fraternity. They receive from him the Scroll of his Justification of their Conduct, their Honour and Dignity; and return the worthy Member Thanks for it. And certain it is, if his Extractions from the Malt, his qualified Liquor, which has every Qualification; should by gaining the Fancies of a Man's Brain, make him justify, or strive to justify, (for in Law, the Lotation has sometime all the Force of Action,) the Character, Honour and Dignity of that truly dignified Body. They would acknowledge, vote, and return him, their Brother, Thanks for the same; nor would the vouciferate Man be once remembered.

BEAIDES, these upright Gentlemen would not suffer Mr. *LUCAS's Fifth Letter*, where his Charge is proved, and his own Reputation fully cleared; to be laid before them.

HERE, my *Brethren*, I cannot help rejoicing with you, that there were a few, a virtuous few! who opposed these evil Proceedings! Who did all that Men could do, But alas! the Current of Vice and of Power, set too strong against them, the small Stream of Virtue and Integrity was stopt and lost in the impetuous Tide. Yet have they this Consolation. They did all in Mortals to gain Success; and all must say that they deserved it. Their Names, though small in Number, shall swell Fame's fair recording Page, — more than Millions of such dastard Wretches. Those, Time shall proudly bear in his rapid Course, when those shall be, long buried in Oblivion.

BUT, this is not all, my *Brethren*. They do not intend to stop here. The gigantic Task is not yet performed. They threaten Arraignment, Pillory, Disfranchisement, and all that the most cunning Malice can invent. Nor is it Threats alone. It is what they purpose and meditate. And, what they are at this Time, with their mischievous Emissaries; with the strongest Efforts of *Satan*, striving to bring about.

AND shall we, my *Brethren*, tamely look on. Shall we see the Cause of *Virtue*, of *Liberty*, spurned and abused; in the Person of our memorable and worthy Brother and Advocate. Shall we be lulled by the Opium of Indifference, without doing our Part; our Duty, as Men, as Brethren, as Fellow Citizens, as Members of the same Church, and hoping for the same Resurrection? No; God forbid!

THEN let us rouse ourselves, my *Brethren*. Let us throw off the long worn, thread bare Habit of Sloth, and put on the
new,

new, the comfortable, the serviceable Garment of Activity ! of Manhood ! and of Virtue ! Let us join with our abused Friend, with his Fellow Labourer, and Fellow Candidate ; with those worthy few who have already, boldly good, avowed the Cause ; and together oppose this Hydra of Oppression and of Iniquity. Let us be unanimous, and we shall find it no *Herculean Labour*. Let us remain in our Resolutions and Actions, inseparable and undivided, and while so, we shall be as formidable, and as invincible, as the *Grecian Phalanx*. Let us follow our virtuous Guide, our worthy Leader. Let us with him, stand or fall together. Let us not forsake him in the Day of Trial, in the Hour of Adversity. He hath done great Things for us ; and it is our own Fault, if greater, are not compassed. If we have yet found him worthy of our Regard and our Assistance ; is he not still worthy ? Then let us not leave him a Prey to the Enemy, a Sacrifice to the Manes of departed Liberty.

HATH not his Fidelity been tried and approved. And shall we not further try and prove it. Would not any of you, my *Brethren*, in your Capacities of Dealers and Traders, trust the Man that always fairly reckoned and honestly paid you ? Surely you would ?

IF there is any among you, whose half-formed Soul, doth shrink at the Proposal ; let him remain in downy Ease at Home ; I mean not to disturb his Slumber. He may doze, till the *Philistines* be on him.

WITH the few who dare to be free, to be good, to be virtuous ; we will face these *Tarquins* of our City. We will grapple with these Giants, and they shall dwindle into the puniest of Mankind.

“ THEN let us rise, my *Friends*, and strive to fill this little Interval, this Pause of Life, (while yet our Liberty and Fates are doubtful) with Resolution, Friendship, Roman Bravery, and all the Virtues we can crowd into it ; that Heaven may say, it ought to be prolonged.”

Brethren Farewel.

new, the conflict, the glorious garment of Adversity! I
is indeed! and of Virtue! Let us join with our noble friend
with a fellow labourer, and fellow Candidate; with those
worthy few who have already, I trust, secured the cause;
and together oppose this system of Corruption and of luxury.
Let us be unanimous, and we shall find it no insurmountable
task. Let us remain in our stations, and Actions, indepen-
dent and undivided, and with this we shall be as formidable
and as invincible as the Goliath of the East. Let us follow our
virtuous Guide; our worthy friend, let us with him stand
or fall together. Let us not be divided in the Day of Trial,
in the hour of Adversity. Let this done great things for
us; and it is our own fault if greater, are not accomplished.
If we have yet found him worthy of our regard and our
affection; is he not still worthy? Then let us not leave him
a prey to the many, a sacrifice to the Many as separated
Liberals.

Let us not let this liberty be tried and approved. And still
we not further say and prove it. We hold not any of you, we
therefore, in your Government of Liberty and Freedom, that
the plan that always has been and honestly held you?
Solely you would?

It there is any amount you, which shall found such, both
in the present and in the future, in downy land, in the
I mean not to slight his statement, his may dare, all the
I wish him to be on him.

Let us the few who dare to be true to be good, to be vir-
tuous; we will face these dangers of our City. We will
people with their Gains, and they shall be able to do the
most of it.

"I have let us the few, and have to all the little
interval, this time of our Liberty and Peace
are doubtful with the future. I mean, however,
and all the Virtues we can crowd into it, let us have any
it ought to be protected."

Edwin Lunt.

